

**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

The specification has been amended to correct minor typographical errors and to provide a reference to the illuminance plot shown in Figure 1.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 3-7, 10-14, 17 and 18 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 3-7, 10-14, 17 and 18 are now pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the Abstract of the Disclosure was objected to because it was too long. By way of this amendment and reply, the Abstract has been amended so that it is less than 150 words.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 8 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended based on the comments made on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, and it is submitted that all of the presently pending claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In the Office Action, claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,077,605 to Ikeda et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,216,498 to Matsunawa et al. This rejection is traversed with respect to the presently pending claims, for at least the reasons given below.

In the presently pending independent claim 3 (which has been amended to include the features of now-canceled claims 1 and 2), an image reading device

includes correction means for executing a color balance correction and a stray light correction simultaneously with an execution of a shading correction based on signal data and white document data stored in a storage means. That is, the image reading device according to claim 3 performs a color balance correction and a stray light correction simultaneously with a shading correction of plural signals that are photoelectric converted by a color photoelectric conversion means.

Ikeda et al. discloses a color image reading apparatus having shading correction for plural color component signals. Ikeda et al.'s apparatus includes light irradiating means (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11-1, 11-2, 12) and color photoelectric conversion means (210, 220, 230) as described in column 3, lines 35-51 of Ikeda et al. However, as acknowledged in the Office Action, Ikeda et al. does not disclose or suggest a correction means for executing a color balance correction and a stray light correction simultaneously with a shading correction of plural signals that are photoelectric converted by a color photoelectric conversion means.

Matsunawa et al. discloses that when A/D conversion is performed, a shading correction is simultaneously performed according to the imaging data on a reference white plate. The shading corrected 8-bit data of R, G and B is supplied to density converters 7, 8 and 9, respectively. The density converters correct the color balance and the gamma, and simultaneously convert 8-bit data to 6-bit data for each color, as described in column 4, lines 18-37 of Matsunawa et al. Please note that Matsunawa et al. does not disclose or suggest anything concerning a stray light correction, and thus Matsunawa et al. does not disclose or suggest a correction means for executing a color balance correction and a stray light correction simultaneously with a shading correction of plural signals that are photoelectric converted by a color photoelectric conversion means.

Accordingly, the combined teachings of Ikeda et al. and Matsunawa et al. do not teach or suggest all of the features of presently pending claim 3. Since presently pending independent claims 10 and 17 recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to presently pending independent claim 3, those

claims are also patentable over the combined teachings of the cited art of record.

The independent claims are also patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims on which they ultimately depend. In addition, they recite additional patentable features when considered as a whole.

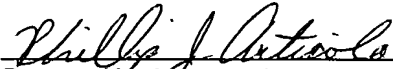
Therefore, since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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